

Date: 2/18/03

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
North Coast Region
5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A,
Santa Rosa, California 95403**

**Notice of Soil Bioremediation and/or Aeration Activities under General Order 92-66
by the City of Arcata at Arcata Corporation Yard, 600 South G Street, Arcata.**

Background: In October 2000, approximately 550 gallons of gasoline was released beneath a diesel and gasoline pump dispenser. Excavation and stockpiling of approximately 240 cubic yards of soil contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons was completed in November 2000. An additional 500 cubic yards of contaminated soil was excavated and stockpiled in October 2001. A third over-excavation of approximately 100 cubic yards was added to the stockpile in the summer of 2002. A total of 840 cubic yards of contaminated soil is stockpiled on-site. The contaminated soil is stockpiled on liners and covered to prevent stormwater runoff.

Description of Enhanced Bioremediation Process: Source material will be excavated from the stockpile, large cobbles will be mechanically screened out, and the segregated soils will be brought to the treatment staging area to be mixed with an appropriate amount of water for additional moisture, supplemental nitrogen and phosphorous sources. Material moisture content will be determined this Spring prior to mixing and the appropriate amount of water will be added. The target moisture content of the biopile will be between 15% and 20% water by weight (a field capacity of 70% to 90%).

Mixing will occur with loaders. Water and nutrients will be premixed in a tank and added in a batch process. Once these materials are completely mixed they will be placed on black 10 mil Visqueen into a five foot high windrow approximately 50 feet wide by 100 feet long and covered with black 10 mil Visqueen or finished compost. As the pile is being constructed, slotted PVC pipe will be placed 12.5 feet on center. Oxygen will be supplied to the biopile by a blower that will periodically blow air into the biopile.

The biopile will be placed within the corporation yard area. All runoff in the corporation yard in the vicinity of the biopile cell is currently captured in drop inlets and is directed to the wastewater treatment plant for treatment. Periodic checks of temperature and moisture content will also occur. Additional fertilizer and water may be added as needed.

The biopile will be sampled every month to determine the moisture content of the stockpile. Temperature data will be collected from the thermometers set in the biopile. The windrow will be sampled every six months to determine the degradation rate of TPH. Two, 6-point composite samples will be collected during the interim sampling. Final sampling will be one four-point composite for every 100 cubic yards of soil.

Once the biopile has achieved its remedial goals, disposal options of the treated soil will include use as fill in the dikes along the oxidation ponds and treatment marsh of the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Regional Water Board will accept any evidence which is reasonably relevant to the following issue: Should the Regional Water Board issue General Waste Discharge Requirements Order 92-66 to the City of Arcata for the treatment of petroleum hydrocarbon contaminated soils at the City of Arcata Corporation Yard? All interested persons should send comments and/or

concerns to the Regional Water Board at 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California 95403, Attention: Ron Allen. Mr. Allen can also be reached at (707) 576-2848.

The tentative Order, related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected and /or copied at the Regional Water Board office. If you want to inspect the file, please call the Regional Water Board at (707) 576-2220 for an appointment.

These requirements will be issued pursuant to Order No. 92-66 in thirty days from the date of this notice unless the Executive Officer receives information that indicates the project may not meet the intent of Order No. 92-66.

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